

# **Update from Medical Program: Medical Standards & Medical Review Board**

**Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
San Diego, CA  
June 29, 2006**



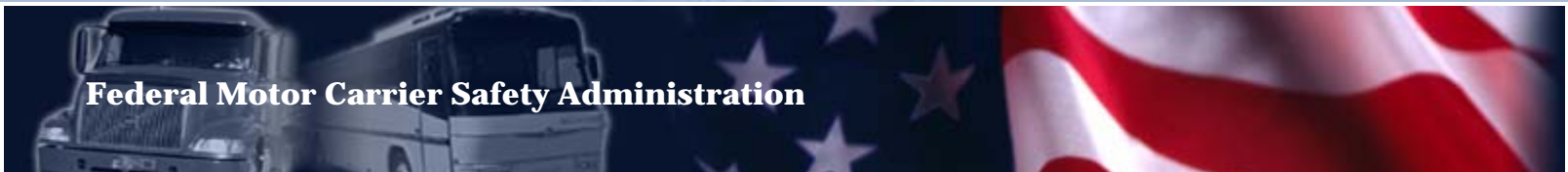
**Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration**

# Current Medical Program Activities

- Medical standards and guidelines
- Rulemaking
- Research
- Inquiries and technical support
- Conflict resolution
- Medical exemptions (e.g., vision, diabetes)
- Limb impairment certificates

# Medical Standards/Regulations

- **13 Standards Total**
  - Directly related to driving
- **9 Standards**
  - Medical examiner discretion
- **4 Standards**
  - **NO** medical examiner discretion
    - Hearing
    - Vision
    - Epilepsy (seizure disorder)
    - Insulin-treated diabetes



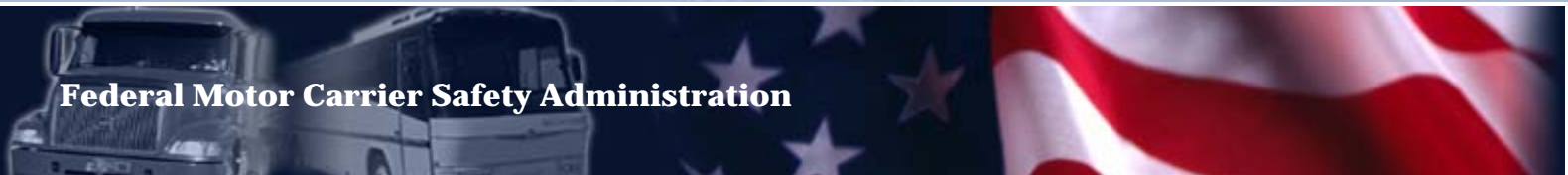
# Medical Exemptions/SPE Certificates

- **Federal Vision Exemption Program**
  - 1,500 active drivers
- **Federal Diabetes Exemption Program**
  - 13 drivers approved, 47 pending approvals
  - dramatic increase (since SAFETEA-LU enacted)
- **Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) Certificate Program (formerly Limb Waiver Program)**
  - 3,400+ active drivers



# Medical Program Challenges

- Number of regulated drivers
- Incomplete, inconsistent medical standards
- Dated medical standards
- Lack of medical standards in key areas
- Medical examiner training



# **SAFETEA-LU**

## **Implementation Strategy**

- **Performance-based medical standards**
- **Effective medical standards**
- **Programs linked to safety impact(s)**
- **Services to drivers, motor carriers, the medical examiner community and the public**

# Major Initiatives

- Establish Medical Review Board
- Revise medical standards, guidelines
- Establish National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners
- Merge medical certification/CDL processes
- Develop long-term program/research strategies

# Medical Review Board

## Criteria for appointment:

- Medical expertise in relevant medical specialty and clinical practice
- Understanding of research methods
- Knowledge of transportation medical issues
- Experience on panels that develop medical standards



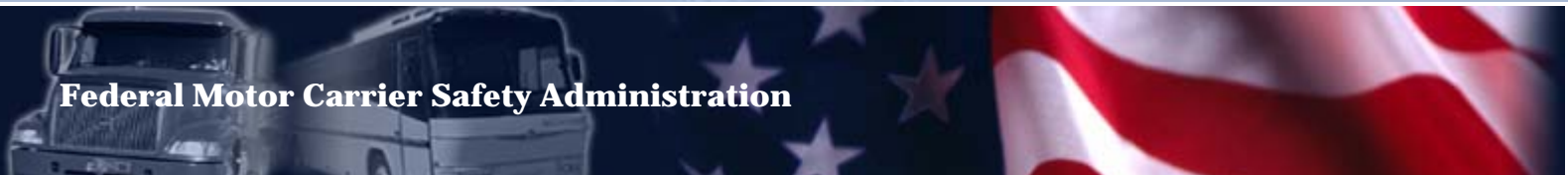
# Medical Review Board

- Record of professional service
- Experience developing teaching programs



# Medical Review Board

- Comprehensive medical oversight program
- Science-based medical standards and guidelines
- Research panels
- Medical research and medical examiner training and certification
- Requests regarding CMV driver physical qualifications



# Medical Review Board

- First meeting scheduled August 31, 2006, Washington, DC
- Second meeting scheduled November 1, 2006, Washington, DC
- Research panels will be convened to support the MRB process

# Decision Model to Prioritize Research Panels

- Crash risk (direct measurable risk for CMV crash)
- FMCSA priorities (e.g., statutory requirement)
- Age of guidelines
- Adequacy of guidance
- Prevalence in general population (epidemiology)

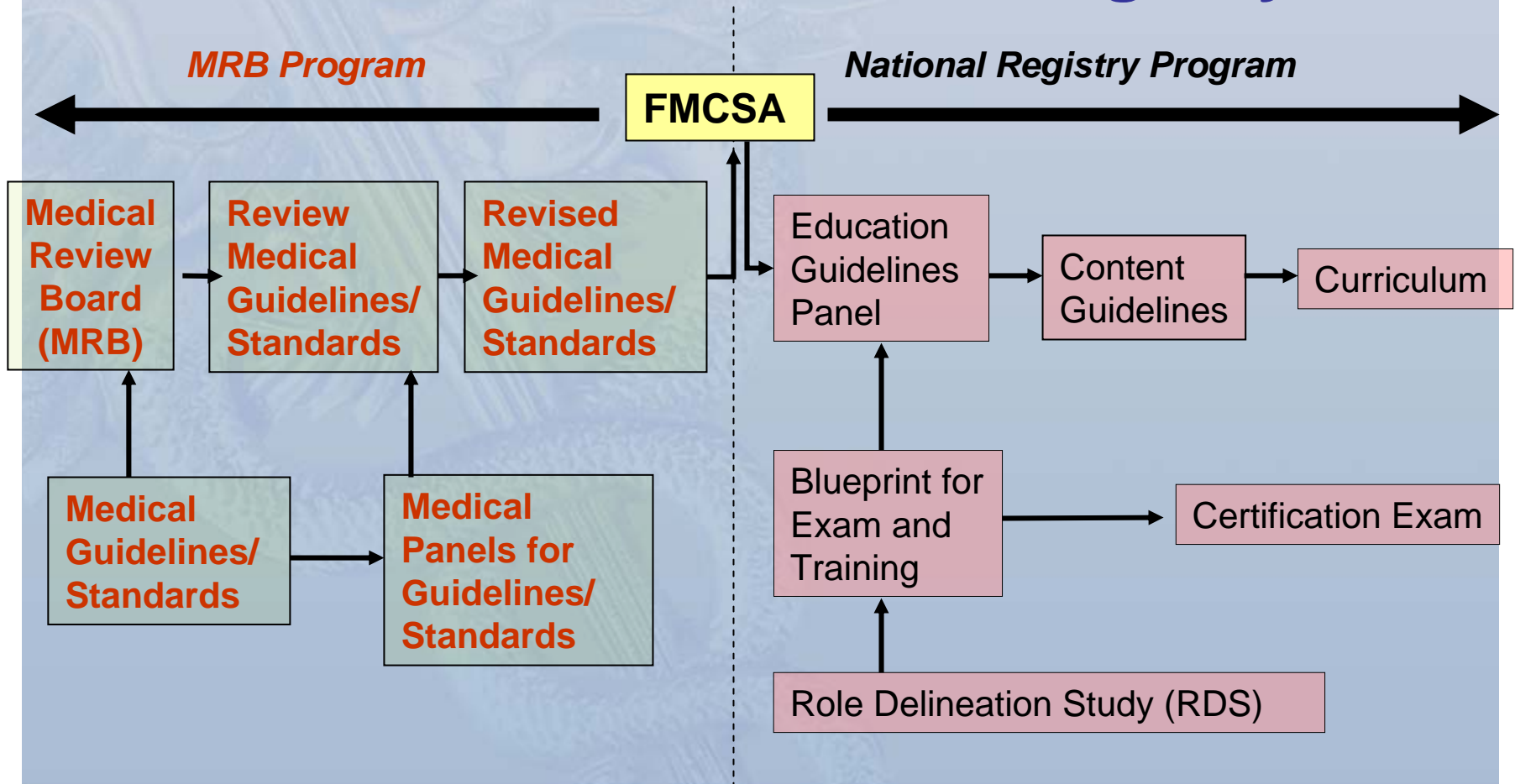


# 2006 Panel Schedule

- **August 2006: Diabetes**
- **September 2006: Schedule II Medications**
- **Other conditions**



# Relationship Between MRB and the National Registry



# Strategy for Keeping the Public Informed

- Federal Register notices
- FMCSA Web site (Medical Program Page):  
[www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov)
- National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners  
Web site:  
[www.nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov)
- Medical Review Board Web site:  
[www.mrb.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.mrb.fmcsa.dot.gov) (under construction)
- New Web sites, Web-based solutions (e.g., e-mail, FAQs, on-line application process)